



Prairie Striders™

Running Club

BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969

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Box 504, Brookings, SD 57006

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Noon, Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave., and via Zoom at:

Present: Dave Graves, president; Nancy Scholl, vice president; John Blatchford, Randy Hanson, Harry Mansheim, Kati Merkley. Present via Zoom: Jay Larsen, treasurer; Matt Bien, Becka Foerster, Andy Carlson, Michelle Buffalo Knuppe, Shari Landmark.

1. Approved **March 1 minutes** for posting on website.
2. Update on **Walk to 5K program** — Nancy Scholl & John Blatchford provided an update on plans. Megan Nankivel is to replace Nancy as one of the run leaders. Flyers have been printed for distribution at the Arbor Day 5K and around town. Notice has been on Facebook and will be submitted to the Brookings Register.

There was discussion about awarding shirts to those who complete the program. It was decided to wait until the program is established before shirts are ordered. Nancy is to work with a local vendor with Prairie Striders footing the cost. Order is expected to be fairly low. Shirts are to carry the Prairie Striders logo, but be fairly generic.
3. **Discuss participation in youth track series in July** — Kati Merkley explained her interest in developing a weekly track series at Brookings High School. For this first year she is looking to have only track events and split children into four age groups.

Age groups and events: Junior kindergarten & kindergarten — 50- and 100-meter dashes; first and second grade — , 50-, 100- and 200-meter dashes; third and fourth grades — 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes; fifth and sixth grades — 100-, 200-, 400- an 800-meter runs. Events would be free with no preregistration required.

Brookings High School has agreed to permit use of its facility, including restrooms and PA system but does require a \$1 million per event liability insurance policy. Therefore, Kati contacted Brookings/SDSU FCA, which is insured for such activities and is interested in participating. Nonmandatory registration through FCA's website may be used to gain a feel for expected turnout.

The Prairie Striders timing clock will be used, but there won't be individual timing to keep organization simpler, reduce the volunteer need and keep the competition low-key.

The races will start at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, starting July 6 or 13 and going through July 27. That will lead into the Predictor Races Aug. 3.

Brookings Health System has agreed to fund participation ribbons. Other entities may be approached about providing treats. Suggested recruiting venues include using FCA's existing database for youth sports, the Jack 15 kids run database that the Wellness Center has, and Park and Rec Facebook postings.

Miscellaneous

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — post-marathon
2. **Emailing race schedule** to past participants — Trevor Penning
3. **Next Sports Show appearance** — Shari Landmark is to make arrangements for John Blatchford to be on the show during the week of April 25 to highlight the Arbor Day 5K, the Scotty Roberts 5K and the Walk to Run program. Matt Bien is the guest for May 11 to discuss the marathon.
4. **Membership mailing update** — Jay Larsen reported eight new life members since membership renewals went out in early March. There are now 128 life members. Also, a \$2,000 donation was made to the SDSU Foundation for the Prairie Striders/Phil LaVallee Memorial Scholarship thanks to donations received as a result of the mailing.

Race director reports

- **Arbor Day 5K** — April 29 — John Blatchford reported plans are in place with this year's event to look much like last year with slight changes in the start and finish. Trees have been ordered. There will again be lead bicyclists.
- **Brookings Marathon** weekend May 13-14 — Matt Bien reported numbers are looking good for the marathon, a little down for the half marathon but he still expects the race will hit its cap of 400 runners. A request for volunteers may go out later, but overall the race is in good shape as far as helpers. Scotty Roberts 5K returns with a new course.
- **Longest Day 10K** — June 18 — Derrick Powers wasn't present, but Dave Graves reported that Derrick has started to organize the race using Race Rooster for online registration. Construction along 20th Street South near 22nd Avenue will require a course change. Instead, Derrick is looking at a couple laps within Dakota Nature Park.
- **Jack 15** — Sept. 24 — Dave Graves noted that South Dakota Art Museum has offered to host packet pickup and the Friday evening program as well as open its doors at 9 a.m. Saturday for use of its bathrooms as well as serve complimentary coffee that morning. No one mentioned a noteworthy downside to switching to this location from the athletic department facilities, so this generous offer will be accepted.

Next meeting – June 7. No meeting in May. The June 7 meeting will be at Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave., with a Zoom option available. That proved useful for those with other meetings.